



Interpreters Wanted Courts Reach Out to Ethnic Communities

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AND BLAINE CORREN

To address a growing need, for the first time the judicial branch is partnering with California's increasingly influential multilingual ethnic media to recruit court interpreters.

Thousands of witnesses, victims, and defendants with limited or no English skills appear in California trial courts every day, and the Judicial Council estimates that the interpreting workload will increase by 7 percent over the next year.

At the Superior Court of Los Angeles County (which accounts for more than 40 percent of statewide expenditures for court interpreters), the manager of interpreter services estimates that more than 40 proceedings are continued every day in that

county because of the lack of an available, qualified interpreter. (Judicial Council, *Report to the Legislature on the Use of Interpreters in the California Courts* (December 2001).)

"More than 224 languages are spoken in California, and some 32 percent of the state's residents speak a language other than English," said Associate Justice Eileen C. Moore of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, who chairs the Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Court Interpreters. "To ensure equal justice in California courts for this growing demographic group, we need to recruit thousands of court interpreters."

According to the Judicial Council's *2000 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study*, the following—listed by days of service in fiscal year 1998–1999—were the languages interpreted most often: Spanish (145,661), Vietnamese (9,197), Korean (3,716), Cantonese (3,252), Armenian (2,730), Cambodian (2,112), Mandarin (2,100), Tagalog (1,986), Russian (1,957), and Punjabi (1,491).

OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

The new statewide outreach campaign was launched in June with the motto "One Law, Many Languages." The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is collaborating on the campaign

with New California Media (NCM). NCM is an editorial and marketing association consisting of more than 400 ethnic media, including newspapers; magazines; radio, television, and cable broadcasters; and filmmakers.

One of the campaign strategies is to place advertisements in ethnic publications on how to become a court interpreter, so as to reach the audiences most affected by the interpreter shortage. The ads, which also feature the "One Law, Many Languages" theme, are scheduled to appear in 25 publications, in 13 languages. They started running in June and will continue through August.

In March NCM released a study on ethnic advertising that was based on interviews with 2,000 Asian Americans, Latinos, and African Americans. Forty percent of those surveyed said they generally pay more attention to advertisements in the ethnic media than to those in general market media. By comparison, 33 percent said they focus more on general market ads.

The statewide outreach campaign also includes briefing sessions with publishers and broadcasters of ethnic news organizations to discuss the most effective ways of communicating the need for court interpreters to their audiences. At meetings in Northern and Southern California in July, media repre-



As part of the judicial branch's new statewide outreach campaign, posters advertising the need for court interpreters will be distributed to ethnic civic groups, places of worship, neighborhood retail shops, legal and social aid societies, and other organizations that serve these communities.

sentatives learned about the interpreter shortage and the steps the judicial branch is taking to address it. They then suggested ways in which their publications could help.

"California's ethnic media are staffed by people who understand the vital role interpreters play in the administration of
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Self-Help Projects Get Under Way

The California courts are faced with ever-increasing numbers of litigants who come to court without legal counsel. These self-represented litigants are rarely familiar with court procedures and forms or with their own rights, which leaves them disadvantaged in court and leads to the consumption of court resources.

At its April 19 meeting, the Judicial Council furthered its goal of increasing meaningful access to the courts by approving funds for five pilot projects as part of the Model Self-Help Centers Pilot Program. The 2001 state budget provided \$832,000 to begin the five projects, which provide varied forms of assistance such as basic legal and procedural information, help with filling out forms, and referrals to

other community resources.

The aim of the pilot program is to determine the effectiveness of court-based self-help projects and provide information to the Legislature on future funding needs.

The projects were selected to model five distinct approaches.

Regional Model: Superior Court of Butte County

A regional project is one that serves at least two relatively small counties, exploring how counties that may not be able to afford a full-time attorney at a self-help center can share resources effectively.

The Superior Court of Butte County is partnering with the superior courts in Glenn and Tehama Counties to provide assistance in areas such as small claims,

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Law Day 2002



Nearly 2,000 local students participated in educational programs and career fairs sponsored by the Superior Court of San Diego County during its Law Week activities. California Supreme Court Associate Justice Ming W. Chin spoke to the students on the subject of "liberty and individual responsibility" and answered their questions. Later in the day he observed mock trials. (See full story on page 9.) *Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of San Diego County*

It's Been Educational

To develop a comprehensive management plan that strengthens the personal, technical, and professional skills of the judicial branch

—Mission Statement, Judicial Administration Institute of California

Faithful to its mission, the Judicial Administration Institute of California (JAIC) has helped to provide professional education for California's court executives, administrators, and staffs since its beginning eight years ago. Following is a timeline showing a few of the events that have shaped the development of JAIC and court staff education in California.

1990

The Judicial Council endorses a proposal for the first statewide institute in court administration.

1991

The State Justice Institute (SJI) denies the initial request for a grant to develop the court administrative institute.

1993

SJI awards a grant to start the institute, which is named the California Judicial Administration Institute (CJAI).

CJAI's Pilot Program Steering Committee holds its first meeting.

The name of the institute is changed from CJAI to Judicial Administration Institute of Cali-

fornia to avoid confusion with CJA (California Judges Association).

1994

With assistance from an outside consultant, JAIC conducts a statewide needs assessment to help provide direction for educational curriculum development. Consultants send the survey to more than 800 presiding judicial officers, executive officers, and senior management staffers.

Based on the results of the needs assessment, JAIC committee members and others from the court community hold a strategic planning session to identify priorities for education programs.

1995–1996

JAIC develops a training catalog that lists the programs in court administration and management in California.

With assistance from faculty at San Diego State University, JAIC designs and rolls out initial courses on developing and exercising leadership, leading organizational change, and managing technology.



The planning committee for the first annual JAIC Conference held its initial meeting on June 18 at the Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building in San Francisco. The conference, scheduled for September 9–13 in Sacramento, is directed toward court managers and others with responsibility for local court operations. It will offer workshops on issues affecting court management and administration.

1996

The Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) Governing Committee invites JAIC committee members to its strategic planning session, at which a consensus is reached on expanding the Governing Committee's responsibilities to include oversight and policy guidance for judicial, administrative, and court staff education.

Judicial Council approves a recommendation to add three court administrators to CJER's Governing Committee.

JAIC becomes a standing committee reporting to CJER's Governing Committee.

1997–2002

Working together, JAIC and the CJER staff and Governing Committee develop executive-level courses in budgeting, team building, court and community collaboration, technology, and caseload management. They also introduce courses for staff, such as customer service, communication, writing, ethics, fairness, managing change, and safety.

2002

Following JAIC's recommendations, CJER's Governing Committee votes to transform JAIC into an annual conference for court managers and others with responsibility for local court operations. ■



Karen Thorson

JAIC: Continuing the Vision For Court Staff Education

MESSAGE FROM KAREN THORSON, DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR JUDICIAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The Judicial Administration Institute of California (JAIC) was formally created in 1994 with the mission of developing administrative curricula for court leaders and staffs. Through the hard work and dedication of its members, JAIC earned a reputation for providing timely, practical, and high-quality educational programs. Many court professionals view the founding members of JAIC as pioneers and visionaries in judicial administrative education, and their work is a model for other state judicial institutions that are just now expanding their educational programming to court administrators and staff.

Following JAIC's lead and in its rather large footsteps, the Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) is now responsible for developing judicial administrative curricula. JAIC has been a strong supporter of the CJER Governing Committee's vision and goals for curriculum-based planning and its continued commitment to administrative education.

At its May 16 meeting, the Governing Committee of CJER heard recommendations from JAIC Committee Chair Sharol Strickland on the future role of JAIC. Following those recommendations, the Governing Committee voted to transform JAIC into an annual conference for court managers and others responsible for local court operations. Ms. Strickland will chair the conference's planning committee.

The conference's workshops and programs will serve as a branchwide communication bridge between executive leadership (the Judicial Council, the council's advisory committees, presiding judges, and executive officers) and local court managers and administrators. In addition, the conference will focus on the operational aspects of some of the concepts discussed at the annual California Judicial Ad-

ministration Conference (CJAC).

On behalf of CJER, I would like to thank JAIC, especially all of its past committee members, for leaving a legacy of innovation and excellence in court administration and staff education in California, establishing a framework in which curriculum-based planning can flourish, and recommending a new vision for serving the educational needs of court managers and staff. I look forward to the annual conference, which promises to offer the same high level of education for which JAIC is known. ■

JAIC: Judicial Administration Institute of California

September 9–13, 2002, Sacramento

CJER's new annual conference for supervisors and managers will give participants knowledge and skills with day-to-day usefulness for implementing policies and operational procedures in the courts. Workshops will include:

Caseflow management
Budgeting
Project management
Critical thinking skills
Business planning

Workload management and statistical analysis
Strategic hiring
Interviewing skills
Integrating information systems

● For more information, contact Matthew Richter, CJER, 415-865-7748; e-mail: matthew.richter@jud.ca.gov.

Court Workers’ Compensation Program Takes Shape

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in June selected EOS (Employer and Occupational Service) Group to serve as third-party administrators for its new statewide workers’ compensation program.

The Trial Court Workers’ Compensation Oversight Committee was formed in October 2001 to develop an optional statewide self-insured workers’ compensation program for the courts. Staff members of the AOC and trial courts, as well as Driver Alliant Insurance Services (the AOC’s consultants), are overseeing the project. The program will be effective January 1, 2003, the date on which

counties can exclude trial court employees from their programs.

The new workers’ compensation program is part of a larger integrated disability management program that is being developed by the AOC and is designed to be seamless for court employees. The overall program incorporates injury and illness prevention, return-to-work and return-to-productivity components, and nonindustrial injury and illness coordination.

By providing appropriate notice, counties can exclude court employees from their programs beginning January 1, 2003. Courts wishing to enroll in the new statewide workers’ com-

pensation program must give notice as mandated by Senate Bill 2140 or as agreed to by their county-court memoranda of understanding. To assist with the courts’ decision making, the AOC’s Human Resources Division will provide program information to courts from July through September via in-person meetings, presentations, and other communications.

● For more information, contact Azucena Coronel, AOC Human Resources Division, 415-865-4308; e-mail: azucena.coronel@jud.ca.gov. ■

Justice Mosk honored



An exhibit honoring the life of California Supreme Court Associate Justice Stanley Mosk opened in San Francisco on June 19, the first anniversary of his death. It includes photographs, newspaper clippings, and other reminders of his contributions to public policy and judicial decision making in California, in addition to mementos of his early life. The exhibit is scheduled to remain in the Archive Room of the Earl Warren Building (home to the California Supreme Court) through September.

New Task Force to Study Reporting of the Record

Chief Justice Ronald M. George in April appointed a new statewide task force to address pressing issues related to the creation of the verbatim record.

The Reporting of the Record Task Force will report directly to the Judicial Council on issues such as the standardiza-

tion of court reporting systems, uniformity of transcripts, and maintenance of and access to transcripts via electronic and paper media. The task force will also examine the impact the shortage of court reporters is having on the courts.

The 17-member task force

is made up of stakeholders in the court and legal communities. “The creation of this task force is a recognition of the significant issues that have existed for many years concerning the creation of the court record,” says Administrative Presiding Justice James A. Ardaiz, Fifth Appellate Dis-

trict, who chairs the new task force. “We will address these issues with the combined expertise, collaboration, and innovative thinking of court reporters, court administrators, judges, and attorneys.”

Service on the task force began in April 2002 and is scheduled to end in April 2004. Meeting agendas, minutes, and other relevant information will be made available on the California courts’ public Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov.

● For more information, contact Claudia Ortega, Administrative Office of the Courts, 415-865-7623; e-mail: claudia.ortega@jud.ca.gov. ■

Members of the Reporting of the Record Task Force

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Administrative Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District | Gary Evan McCurdy
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| S. William Abel
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Identifying Judges’ Technology Needs

The Administrative Office of the Courts is looking for input from judges to ensure that their needs are incorporated into the many statewide technology initiatives being implemented in the judicial branch.

To ensure that judges’ priorities will be addressed, the AOC is organizing bench-level focus groups that will discuss projects ranging from case management certification to electronic access from the bench. The initial meeting will take place on August 15 at the Judicial Council Conference Center in San Francisco.

● For more information or to participate, contact Renea Hatcher, 415-865-7435; e-mail: renea.hatcher@jud.ca.gov, or Charlene Hammitt, 415-865-7410; e-mail: charlene.hammitt@jud.ca.gov.